

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 534

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RUPP.

Read 1st time February 26, 2009, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1117S.011

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 58, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to testing for psychotropic substances in suicide cases.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 58, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 58.444, to read as follows:

**58.444. 1. If any person within a coroner's or medical examiner's jurisdiction dies as a result of suicide, the coroner or medical examiner shall report the death and circumstances of the suicide to the department of health and senior services in writing. The description of the circumstances of the suicide shall include any information provided by law enforcement regarding any violent acts alleged to have been committed by the person immediately prior to his or her death. Such report shall be made within five days of the conclusion of the tests required in subsection 2 of this section.**

**2. The coroner or medical examiner shall perform, or cause to be performed, such tests, including tissue testing, as are necessary to determine the presence of psychotropic substances in the body of the deceased. For the purposes of this section, the term "psychotropic substances" shall mean antidepressants, antipsychotics, stimulants, or amphetamines. The results of such tests shall be included in the coroner's or medical examiner's report to the department. The contents of the report, including any test results, shall be used by the department for statistical purposes only and the department shall not reveal the identity of the deceased.**

**3. The department shall provide an annual report to the governor compiling the information received from coroners and**

22 **medical examiners throughout the state. It shall include the number**  
23 **of suicides involving psychotropic substances, and specifically, the**  
24 **number of such suicides that also involved violent acts committed by**  
25 **the deceased immediately prior to death. The department shall also**  
26 **make such report available to the public and forward it to the United**  
27 **States Food and Drug Administration.**

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